

COMMUNIST  
COUNTRY

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Germany (Soviet Zone) SECURITY INFORMATION 25X1

TOPIC Volkspolizei Dienststelle I-2311 in Leipzig

[Redacted]

DATE PREPARED 11 January 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

DO NOT DISCLOSE

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1. Prior to late October 1951, Volkspolizei Dienststelle (VPD) I-2311 was located in the barracks installations on Olbrichtstrasse and Viertelsweg, Leipzig W-22 (Leipzig-Gohlis). It numbered 1,500 to 1,600 police and was organized like a standard VPD.
2. The VPD was equipped with 1 T-34 tank, 1 SU-76 SP gun, 2 x 76.2-mm AT guns, 1 x 122-mm gun, 1 Soviet-type reconnaissance car and several 80-mm and 120-mm mortars.
3. Officers of the VPD included: VP Inspkteur Richard Stainer, commanding officer, ex-commanding officer of the XI Brigade of the Spanish Civil War; VP Kommandeur Staerker (fnu), deputy commanding officer and PK officer; VP Kommandeur Durrer (fnu), chief of staff; VP Kommandeur Strenyuk (fnu), Soviet adviser for the 1st and 7th Sonderabteilungen (a lieutenant colonel of tank troops); VP Kommandeur Brandes (fnu), officer in charge of technical equipment; VP Kommandeur Vitz (fnu), commanding officer of the 4th Kommando; VP Kommandeur Seidel (fnu), commanding officer of the 1st Sonderabteilung; VP Rat Rother (fnu), commanding officer of the 2d Sonderabteilung; and VP Oberkommissar Walter Ruschke, commanding officer of the 7th Sonderabteilung, an ex-tank trooper.
4. The 7th Sonderabteilung included 22 well-trained tank crews who were to be issued tanks within a short time. \* Training areas used by the 1st and 7th Sonderabteilungen for day and night driving practice were the Am Bienitz area on the Elster-Saale Canal, between Burghausen and Rickmersdorf, and the Fuerstenholz area near Borna. The latter area was also used for tactical field training.

Comment. Previous reports specified the authorized equipment of the 7th Sonderabteilung as 10 tanks which corresponds with the standard equipment of a Soviet tank company. The 22 tank crews mentioned in the present report tend to indicate that the 7th Sonderabteilung may be brought up to tank battalion strength, since a Soviet tank battalion has 21 tanks. However, the hitherto reported authorized strength of 120 men in the 7th Sonderabteilung would be inadequate for a tank battalion. It is therefore believed that, for the present, the 7th Sonderabteilung will be issued only 10 tanks but train a number of alternate tank crews.

CLASSIFICATION

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